

Regarding the assertion on page 3 of the Restriction Requirement that a serious burden would be placed on the Examiner if all the claims were examined in one application, Applicants note that all of Claims 1 and 11-33 **have already been examined**. Accordingly, treatment of the claims already examined would not place a serious burden on the Examiner inasmuch as a search has already been conducted, and references have already been cited against these claims. Additionally, the claims have already been checked for issues under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and § 112.

Further, all the pending claims of the present invention would appear to be part of an overlapping search area. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully traverse the outstanding Restriction Requirement on the grounds that a search and examination of the entire application would not place a serious burden on the Examiner. Therefore, an action on all of Claims 1 and 11-33 is earnestly solicited.

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

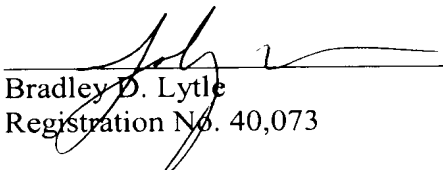
Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/03)


Bradley D. Lytle
Registration No. 40,073

Johnny Ma
Registration No. 59,976

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